

Santa Barbara City Council Committee on Homeless Issues and Community Relations  
July 10, 2008  
8:30 a.m.

Louise Lowry Davis Center  
1232 De la Vina Street  
Santa Barbara, CA 93101  
Minutes

Council Members Present: Iya Falcone, Dale Francisco, Helene Schneider

Staff Present: Frank Mannix, Sue Gray, Rich Glaus, Dave Gustafson, Don Olson, Steve Wiley, Jim Armstrong

1. PUBLIC COMMENT:

Four members of the public spoke. Bob Hansen spoke about the need for a coordinated effort to deal with the issue beyond shelters and the 10-Year Plan. He suggested the City look for land for Recreational Vehicles to park. Fred Kuhlmann spoke about the Fellowship Club as a good example of a place for people to go and he urged the Committee to use ideas from that model. One member of the public stated that we should not be in the shelter business because it hurts people and he also felt that a Recovery Zone will fail. Gary Mueller announced that he is researching homeless individuals with health issues.

2. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE CHAIR

Councilmember Schneider suggested that either the two staff people assigned to this committee facilitate the meetings or the three council members rotate as chairs. Councilmember Francisco spoke of the need for a simple orderly process and felt that the committee needs someone to keep the meetings going. He nominated Councilmember Falcone for chair. Councilmember Falcone said she would be happy to chair the committee and she was elected.

3. SELECTION OF COMMITTEE NAME

After some discussion, Chair Falcone suggested that we come back to the next meeting with a revised name. Some did not like the use of the term "homeless". Suggestions included "residentially challenged" or "housing issues".

4. REVIEW, CLARIFICATION AND PRIORITIZATION OF ISSUES RELATED TO HOMELESSNESS IN SANTA BARBARA:

Items to include in the individual meetings were discussed as follows:

- Aggressive panhandling, primarily in the Downtown
  - Education regarding panhandling
  - Alternative for those panhandling for their basic needs
  - Legalities of aggressive panhandling
  - How to implement a "Care not Cash" program
  - Need for gas vouchers/laundry facility/clothing
  - Need for people to feel secure in downtown
  - Participation of Downtown Organization
  - Jobs
  - Benches on State Street
  - Resources needed to meet needs

- Abusive Loitering
- Concern with young adults in downtown area
- Need different solutions for different populations (i.e. Youth, Women, Young Girls)
- Street Outreach interaction with Police Department
- Changes in service provider budgets and their impacts
- Information on Care not Cash program
- Include Waterfront area – add staff to distribution list
- 600-700 block of E. De la Guerra Street issue (many vehicles parked on street-increase in last 3 weeks)
- More police presence in Downtown area – bike/foot patrol
- Use 10-Year Plan framework on all issues
- Include Noah's Anchorage in discussion
- Include Oak Park Issues
- Recommendation from the Milpas Action Task Force to consider establishing a Recovery Zone or Alcohol Impact Zone in the Lower Milpas Street area
  - Consider practical applications
  - Consider legal issues
  - Limitations
  - Need understanding of addiction
  - Restorative Policing
  - Punishing users won't work
  - Statistics on effectiveness of other programs (i.e. Seattle)
  - Need for housing/services
  - Include Alcohol Control Board in discussion
  - Don't just "move" problem
  - Consider alternative available to people
  - Better enforcement of existing laws
- Utilization of existing shelter services to more effectively assist the most vulnerable homeless persons
  - Need washers/dryers
  - Need resource center-phones
  - Need bus tokens
  - Use 30 beds at Casa Esperanza for "medical respite beds"
  - Include Cottage Hospital in discussion
  - Need inventory of current beds
  - Explore alternative service providers (i.e. Faith Based)
  - Identify "vulnerable populations"
  - Add Rape Crisis and Domestic Violence Solutions to discussion
  - Need basic living skills education (budgeting/bill paying etc) & transition opportunities
  - Evaluation of existing shelters
  - Add participants to stakeholder list
  - Add 10-Year Plan to stakeholder list
  - Community capacity for care (how much is too much?)
- Need for increased coordination between City Police and homeless street outreach staff from various agencies to reduce calls for service from City Police

- Add Fire Department to stakeholder list
- Add downtown and Milpas businesses to stakeholder list
- Add Parks and Recreation to stakeholder list (park rangers)
- Add Restorative Policing to stakeholder list
- Need program information on current efforts
- Did police train Casa Esperanza's outreach team?
- Tactical police unit covers too much territory/need different units for Milpas, State Street and Waterfront area
- Gain the support of the courts, District Attorney and County Probation to curb negative behavior (i.e. injunctions and increased penalties) and require offenders to receive services/treatment to get on the track to recovery
  - Get information on current Mental Health Services (Vida Nueva, PUFF and SHIA)
  - Homeless Court
  - Add Legal Aid to stakeholder list
  - Need for "real" detox center and sobering living centers
  - Add private attorneys to stakeholder list
  - Need information on Drug Court
  - Proposition 36
  - Community service time for offenders
  - Look at County Alcohol Drug Mental Health Services budget
  - Add County Alcohol Drug Mental Health Services to stakeholder list
  - Police Department needs more training on working with the mentally ill

Chair Falcone added two items that she felt needed to be explored, study of legislation and financial resources included in each topic area.

## 5. PROPOSED WORKPLAN FOR FUTURE MEETINGS

The committee agreed on the following workplan for future meetings:

Meeting #1 Need for increased coordination between City Police and homeless street outreach staff from various agencies to reduce calls for service from City Police

Meeting #2 Recommendation from the Milpas Action Task Force to consider establishing a Recovery Zone or Alcohol Impact Zone in the Lower Milpas Street area

Meeting #3 Gain the support of the courts, District Attorney and County Probation to curb negative behavior (i.e. injunctions and increased penalties) and require offenders to receive services/treatment to get on the track to recovery

Meeting #4 Aggressive panhandling, primarily in the Downtown

Meeting #5 Utilization of existing shelter services to more effectively assist the most vulnerable homeless persons

## 6. SET DATE/TIME OF FUTURE MEETINGS

The next meeting will be held on Wednesday, August 6<sup>th</sup> from 4 – 6 p.m. at a location to be determined.

## 7. ADJOURN

The committee meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m.

## 8. ATTENDEES

Christy White, St. Brigid Society  
Melody Jorgensen  
Janice Quinlin, Safe Parking Program  
Nancy McCradie, Homes on Wheels  
Mike Jordan, GSBLRA  
Gary Mueller, South Coast Housing Action  
Committee  
Fred Kuhlmann  
Dave Lombard, Downtown Organization  
Peter Conn, Health Care for All – SB  
Linda Miller, Homes on Wheels  
Bill Collyer, Downtown Organization  
Kelley Stoddard, Oaks Preschool  
Wim Verkaik, CADA

John Dixon, Tri-County Produce  
Mark Whitehurst, CASA Magazine  
Bryan Thompson, Legal Aid  
Petra Lowen, Independent Living Resource Center  
Mark Erickson, Fess Parker's DoubleTree  
John Buttny, 10 Year Plan to End Homelessness  
Jill Wllerstedt, St. Brigid Fellowship  
Paulina Conn, Health Care for All – SB  
David B. Wilson, personal knowledge  
Lindsey Wessberg, Homeowner  
Ursula Machado, Santa Barbara Inn Hotel  
Rob Pearson, HACSB  
Laura Knight, Downtown Organization & City  
CDHSC  
Alan Schwab